

01272.020637



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
: )  
NOBUYUKI KUWABARA, et al. )  
: )  
Application No.: 10/671,619 )  
: )  
Filed: September 29, 2003 )  
: )  
For: INK SUPPLY SYSTEM, )  
: )  
INK JET PRINTING )  
: )  
APPARATUS, INK )  
: )  
CONTAINER, INK )  
: )  
REFILLING CONTAINER )  
: )  
AND INK JET CARTRIDGE : March 29, 2004

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to the documents listed below and on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. A copy of each non-U.S. patent document so listed is enclosed. Copies of U.S. patent documents are not enclosed, pursuant to the Notice published in the Official Gazette dated August 5, 2003.

U.S. Patent 5,854,646  
Europe 803,364  
Europe 1,149,706  
Europe 1,190,860  
Europe 1,231,062  
Japan 2001-138541  
Japan 2001-301194

These documents were cited during prosecution of a European patent application corresponding to the above U.S. application. A copy of the European Search Report, which is dated January 21, 2004, is enclosed.

The concise explanation of relevance for the non-English documents cited above is provided in the European Search Report and by the English language abstracts included with the cited art. The Examiner is, of course, referred to the European Examiner's comments on the English language documents as well.

The European Search Report lists U.S. Patent 6,540,321 as an English language counterpart to Japan 2001-301194, and lists U.S. Published Application No. 2003/128256 as an English language counterpart to Japan 2001-138541. These documents are listed on Form PTO-1449.

The Examiner is urged to study this information in its entirety and to form an independent determination of the materiality of the information to the claimed invention. Additionally, the Examiner is requested to indicate that this information has been considered by initialling the appropriate portion of Form PTO-1449.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa,  
California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to  
our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

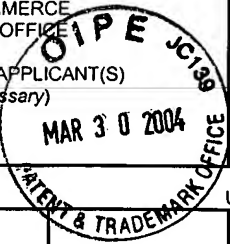


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FORM PTO 1449 (modified)  U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE				ATTY DOCKET NO. <b>01272.020637</b>		APPLICATION NO. <b>10/671,619</b>	
LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S) (Use several sheets if necessary)				APPLICANT <b>Nobuyuki Kuwabara, et al</b>			
				FILING DATE <b>September 29, 2003</b>		GROUP <b>Unknown</b>	
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
		<b>5,854,646</b>	<b>12/29/98</b>	<b>Barinaga, et al</b>	<b>347</b>	<b>85</b>	
		<b>6,540,321</b>	<b>4/1/03</b>	<b>Hirano, et al</b>	<b>347</b>	<b>22</b>	
		<b>2003/128256</b>	<b>7/10/03</b>	<b>Atsumichi, et al</b>			
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES/NO/ OR ABSTRACT
		<b>803,364</b>	<b>10/29/97</b>	<b>Europe</b>			
		<b>1,149,706</b>	<b>7/31/02</b>	<b>Europe</b>			
		<b>1,190,860</b>	<b>3/27/02</b>	<b>Europe</b>			
		<b>1,231,062</b>	<b>8/14/02</b>	<b>Europe</b>			
		<b>2001-138541</b>	<b>5/22/01</b>	<b>Japan</b>			<b>Abstract</b>
		<b>2001-301194</b>	<b>20/3001</b>	<b>Japan</b>			<b>Abstract</b>
OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)							
EXAMINER				DATE CONSIDERED			

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of form with next communication to applicant.